

of estates belonging to infants and other persons under legal disabilities, but shall not, by special legislation, grant relief in such cases, or in any other case of which the courts or other tribunals may have jurisdiction.

36. The general assembly shall provide for the periodical registration in the several counties, cities, and towns, of the voters therein, and for the annual registration of the births, marriages, and deaths in the white population, and of the births and deaths in the coloured population of the same, distinguishing between the numbers of free coloured persons and slaves.

37. The general assembly, at intervals of five years from the dates of the returns of the census of the United States, shall cause to be taken a census and such statistics of this state as may be prescribed by law; which census and statistics shall be returned to the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall compare and correct the returns and report the same to the general assembly.

38. The manner of conducting and making returns of elections, of determining contested elections, and of filling vacancies in office, in cases not specially provided for by this constitution, shall be prescribed by law; but special elections to fill vacancies in the office of judge of any court shall be for a full term. And the general assembly may declare the cases in which any office shall be deemed vacant, when no provision is made for that purpose in this constitution.

ARTICLE V.—*Executive Department.*

GOVERNOR.

1. The chief executive power of this commonwealth shall be vested in a governor. He shall hold the office for the term of four years, to commence on the — day of — next succeeding his election, and be ineligible to the same office for the term next succeeding that for which he was elected, and to any other office during his term of service.

2. The governor shall be elected by the voters, at the times and places of choosing members of the general assembly. Returns of the election shall be transmitted, under seal, by the proper officers to the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall deliver them to the speaker of the house of delegates, on the first day of the next session of the general assembly. The speaker of the house of delegates shall within one week thereafter, in the presence of a majority of the senate and house of delegates, open the said returns, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the highest number of votes shall be declared elected; but if two or more shall have the highest and an equal number of votes, one of them shall be chosen governor by the joint vote of the two houses of the general assembly. Contested elections for governor shall be decided by a like vote, and the mode of proceeding in such cases shall be prescribed by law.

3. No person shall be eligible to the office of governor unless he has attained the age of thirty years, is a native citizen of the United